

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ROME 13327 161658Z

47

ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3112

C O N F I D E N T I A L ROME 13327

EXDIS

FOR SISCO FROM LODGE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, XF, VT

SUBJECT: VATICAN AND THE MIDDLE EAST

REF: STATE 214019

1. IN DISCUSSIONS HELD ON SEPTEMBER 15, DRAWING ON THE INFORMATION WHICH SISCO HAD GIVEN ME, I TOLD ARCHBISHOP CASAROLI, VATICAN'S "FOREIGN MINISTER", THAT CERTAIN ARABS WERE ATTACKING SADAT, CHARGING HIM WITH MAKING A SEPARATE PEACE. I ASKED WHETHER THE POPE COULD SAY PUBLICLY THAT HE THOUGHT WELL OF THE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT AND OF SADAT'S STATESMANSHIP. I THOUGHT THIS WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH PREVIOUS PAPAL STATEMENTS ON THE NEED FOR PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. CASAROLI REACHED FOR A BLOCK OF PAPER, MADE EXTENSIVE NOTES AND SAID HE WOULD "TRY TO FIND A WAY FOR THE POPE TO SAY SOMETHING HELPFUL."

2. ON SEPT. 16, I MADE THE SAME REQUEST TO THE DEPUTY PAPAL SECRETARY OF STATE BENELLI. HE TOO REACHED FOR HIS NOTE BOOK AND SAID THAT CERTAINLY SADAT "SHOULD BE ENCOURAGED." VOLPE

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Message Attributes

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